



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Potomac River below Washington, DC

Type of Project: Navigation

Project Phase: Operation and Maintenance

Authorization: The Potomac River below Washington, DC project was authorized under the River & Harbor Act of 1899. This authorization provides for a channel 24 feet deep and 200 feet wide from the Chesapeake Bay to Giesboro Point at Washington, DC. The Potomac River is naturally deeper than 24 feet for most of its length and work on the navigation project consists of dredging eleven disjointed channels.

Congressional Interest:

Senators: Barbara A. Mikulski (MD), Benjamin L. Cardin (MD), John W. Warner (VA),
Jim Webb (VA)

Representatives: Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5), James P. Moran, Jr. (VA-8), Thomas M. Davis III
(VA-11), Jo Ann S. Davis (VA-1), Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)

Non-Federal Sponsor: None

Background: Three channels in the upper portion of the Potomac were last dredged in FY 2000. Placement went in open water which is now not allowed within the State of Maryland.

Issues: To complete the restoration of the full 24-foot project depth, dredging of eight channel segments is required. FY 2007 funds will be used for engineering and design of additional placement sites for future maintenance dredging.

Status: The lower portions of the Potomac River are shoaled to a controlling depth of 19 feet. Many vessels cannot use the channel with a full load and must lighten their cargo to make their destination, thereby increasing transit costs and decreasing transit efficiency.

Funding: FY 2007 President's Budget \$100,000
FY 2008 \$0

For more information regarding Potomac River navigation project contact Robert N. Blama, CENAB-OP-NN, (410) 962-6068, or e-mail Robert.N.Blama@nab02.usace.army.mil